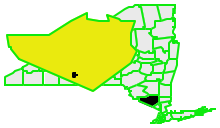
CONSOLIDATED IRON AND METAL

NEW YORK

EPA ID# NY0002455756



EPA REGION 2

CONGRESSIONAL DIST. 26

Orange County

Newburgh

Site Description

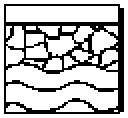
The Consolidated Iron and Metal site is an inactive car and scrap metal junk yard located at the foot of Washington Street, Newburgh, Orange County, New York. The facility operated from the mid-1950's until 1999. The facility occupies about 7 acres of land bordering the Hudson River in a mixed industrial, commercial, and residential area. The site is bounded by a boat marina and restaurant to the north, Conrail railroad tracks and South Water Street to the west, a wastewater treatment plant to the south, and the Hudson River to the east. Before EPA conducted a site clearing operation at the site in 2003, the Consolidated Iron facility consisted of a tire pile adjacent to the southern boundary; a staging area and smelter in the southwest corner of the facility; a compactor and metal shear on the eastern boundary; and an office, scale, and garage located adjacent to the northern boundary. Additionally, scrap metal piles were found throughout the southeastern portion of the property. The City of Newburgh has foreclosed on the property.

Scrap metal processing and storage operations took place at the site for approximately 40 years, during which time various types of scrap metal were received, including whole automobiles, automobile engines, transmissions, and batteries, keypunch machines, computer parts, white goods (appliances), and transformers. According to the former owner, the smelter operated between 1975 and 1995. The smelter was used primarily to melt aluminum transmissions to produce a reusable aluminum product. Other materials were also smelted, resulting in a lead-contaminated ash/slag by-product. Other operations included sorting ferrous and non-ferrous metal scrap for recycling, baling and shearing large pieces of metal, including whole cars, into smaller pieces for transport, and flattening of cars.

From 1997 to 1999, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) conducted several inspections at the facility. NYSDEC observed oil and other waste liquids on the facility soils and storm water being discharged into the Hudson River. In the spring of 2000, the New York State Attorney General prosecuted Consolidated Iron for various violations, including illegal discharge to surface water without a permit.

Site Responsibility: This site is being addressed through Federal actions.

NPL LISTING HISTORY
Proposed Date: 12/01/00



Threats and Contaminants

Sampling performed by EPA indicates that surface and subsurface soils are impacted by volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and metals at concentrations greater than background. Elevated concentrations of PCBs and metals have been detected in the Hudson River adjacent to the site.

Cleanup Approach

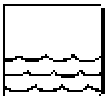
This site is being addressed in two phases: initial actions, completed in fall 2003, and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

Initial Actions

In August 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sampled an ash/slag pile at the site that was generated by the aluminum smelting operation and found it to be contaminated with lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The scrap metal in the pile was segregated out and the resulting fine pile, estimated at 6,600 tons, was removed from the site in 1999 and placed in a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-approved treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF) for stabilization and landfilling. Also in 1999, EPA sampled other processed soil piles at the site which were also found to be contaminated with lead and PCBs; these soil piles, too, were transferred to a RCRA-approved TSDF. Additionally in 1999, EPA constructed a berm from site soils to prevent storm water from carrying site contaminants into the Hudson River.

In September 1999, EPA conducted an Integrated Assessment (IA) at the site to determine the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination. Surface and subsurface soil and ground water samples were collected and analyzed, indicating the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), pesticides, PCBs, and metals at concentrations greater than background in the surface and subsurface soils. Further, elevated concentrations of PCBs and metals have been detected in the Hudson River, which is a fishery and a sensitive environment (i.e., a state-designated water body for the maintenance of aquatic life).

In August 2002, EPA responded to local concerns about trespassing and scavenging taking place at the site and began the construction of a security fence. The fence was completed in September 2002. During this time, the City of Newburgh and Orange County were able to remove 15 loads of tires (10,000-20,000 tires) and 8 loads of scrap metal from the site.



In order to conduct the sampling program that will determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site, it was necessary to clear the site of the debris and some of the structures located on-site. Accordingly, beginning in mid-June 2003, EPA conducted a site clearing operation, which was completed in September 2003. The following tasks were

accomplished:

- the removal of 32 truckloads of tires (approx. 30,000 tires total);
- the removal of 58 truckloads (1450 tons) of scrap metal for recycling (including a surficial "metal sweep" to remove and dispose of the ferrous metal pieces integrated into the surface soils);
- the removal of 19 roll-offs (380 tons) of concrete for recycling;
- the disposal of 68 truckloads (1962 tons) of lead-hazardous soil and debris;
- the demolition and removal of an office building and 3 process buildings (converted to wood mulch and recycled concrete);
- the pumping and removal of approximately 25,000 gallons of hydraulic oil from a process building basement for recycling (completed in November 2003); and
- rough grading of the site surface.

With the completion of the site clearing, EPA will be able to perform the remedial investigation/ feasibility study (RI/FS). The sampling program for the RI is anticipated to begin in early 2004.

Response Action Status

Entire Site: EPA has developed a work plan for the performance of a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) at the site. EPA is also continuing its search for potentially responsible parties, which may elect to execute the work plan. The RI field work is planned for early 2004.

Cleanup Progress

Initial actions taken by EPA at the site, including the removal of an ash/slag pile and processed soil piles, restricting site access, and clearing the site of tires, debris, and structures have eliminated the immediate risks posed to nearby residents, such as the potential for the dispersal of wind blown contaminants and propagation of the West Nile virus. Since adding the site to the NPL, EPA has performed a review of the data collected at the site and is coordinating efforts with NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in planning future activities. An RI/FS work assignment was initiated in March 2002 and an RI/FS work plan was completed in 2003. Field sampling for the remedial investigation is expected to begin in early 2004.

Site Repository

All documents related to this site are located at the USEPA Region II Records Center, 290 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, New York, 10007-1866.